

Marilyn Obdaniela
Tayabas, Philippines

Marilyn Obdaniela had a small business selling cement and charcoal in Tayabas, Philippines. When her sister decided to leave the Philippines to work as a nurse overseas, Marilyn took over her small handicrafts business with five employees. She received her first Opportunity International loan shortly thereafter to expand her new business.

Today, less than four years later, 20 families – 80 people work for Marilyn, producing 2,000 hand-crafted baskets per week. Marilyn's baskets export to Europe as well as several nearby towns and in Manila. Marilyn's husband Ermilo delivers baskets to her customers and exporters.

Through Marilyn's growing basket-weaving business, she provides enough income so her employees can provide for their families. For all these families, Marilyn plans to help every one of her employees' children complete their schooling.

"My life before was very simple," Marilyn says. "But now I can help more than 20 families have an income for their daily needs — and their children go to school."